



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

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**Testimony of Deborah J. Fuller
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 9, 2011**

House Bill 6537, An Act Concerning Speedy Trials

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony, on behalf of the Judicial Branch, on House Bill 6537, *An Act Concerning Speedy Trials*. We are opposed to this proposal because of its anticipated impact on the courts.

This proposal would have a significant negative impact on the Judicial Branch's ability to manage dockets and move cases. It would shorten the period of time within which a trial on any misdemeanor charge must commence from eight months to 90 days. The new language does not include a requirement that the defendant file a speedy trial motion to enforce this provision, shifting the sole responsibility for keeping track of the timelines in all misdemeanor cases to the courts. Additional resources will be needed to establish an automated system for tracking these cases. Without such a system, we anticipate that the requirements of this proposal would result in the dismissal of a significant number of cases.

In addition to the tracking functions, significant Judicial, staff and facility resources will be needed for the increased number of trials that would result from this proposal, which will hinder the Branch's ability to try felony cases. Finally, the proposal does not address the situation where a defendant simultaneously has separate misdemeanor and felony cases pending. As currently drafted, it would require release on the misdemeanor after 3 months, then trial on the misdemeanor with a more serious case still pending that may go to trial at a later date -- a significant waste of resources to try the same defendant multiple times rather than enabling the court system to determine which of the cases should be tried.

In conclusion, we urge the Committee not to act favorably on this bill. Thank you for your consideration.